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Letter To The Editor

Dear Editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the people in Pamplin and Appomattox for the wonderful way in which you responded to the recent statement in a Lynchburg newspaper concerning my having taken several items from a store.

I have never stolen and I still maintain that I am innocent. I still do not, and perhaps will never know who put the items in question on me.

Again, I would like to thank those of you who maintained your confidence and trust in me.

Sincerely yours,
Ralph Johnson, Sr.

The Pastor Speaks

PERIL AND PRAYER
Psalm 54

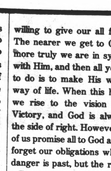
This is a short Psalm written in time of great trouble, and it contains first, an earnest prayer for what? Verses 1-3 of this Psalm 1. "Save me, O God by thy name, and judge me by thy strength. 2. Hear my prayer, O God; give ear to the words of my mouth. 3. For strangers are risen up against me, and oppressors seek after my soul: they have not set God before them. Selah."

This then is an earnest prayer for deliverance and then in verses 4-7 we find an expression of confidence in God's aid, and of thankfulness for His deliverance which he counts as absolutely certain. This prayer for deliverance, a prayer to be delivered from impending danger. The psalmist has grounded his prayer upon the divine nature of God. He says save me, how? Well he says by thy name and by thy strength. This is God's divine nature, and it's also God's divine nature to save, to save His people. God uses his very omnipotence on behalf of those who call upon Him. The psalmist called upon God to judge my case or "avenge me" by thy strength, we can pray when we are pleading for a good cause, is this a good cause that the psalmist has presented to God, as reason to be saved? Of course it is, he says strangers are risen up against me, and oppressors seek after my soul, they have not set God before them. It looked like his soul was about to be destroyed, and Satan can destroy our soul, the word of God tells us to beware of the one who can destroy the soul, and he describes it here that they were not men who acted as if they were seen of God. They were men with a character that would threaten his safety.

Verses 4-7 is the truimphant assurance of the psalmist's faith. He is assured of the general truth that God was his helper, by trusting in Him we can have this very same assurance, this can be a mighty hard world if we just trust in man. Man falls oh so many times in his life, but God will never fall or fail you if with a true heart you call upon Him, but too many of us think it's just plain foolish to call on, some one you cannot see. However the psalmist knew that God stood beside him as his helper and protector of his soul. He trusted God. His assurance is so great that he regards his deliverance as already accomplished. How does he feel? Well with this assurance he is at rest and in peace, delivered from danger. With God on his side, he can't be wrong and now the psalmist will sacrifice and praise as one already saved.

Faith -- real faith is always joined to works. When we have this kind of faith in God, we are willing to give our all for Him. The nearer we get to God, the more truly we are in sympathy with Him, and then all you want to do is to make His will your way of life. When this happens we rise to the vision of real Victory, and God is always on the side of right. However some of us promise all to God and then forget our obligations when the danger is past, but the righteous will never fall down on his promise to God. Think of the story of the Samarian leper, he returned to give glory to God, with sacrifices of thanksgivings and songs of praise. Let us all have this faith in our God.

T. R. Boggs,
Pamplin, Va.



BLESSINGS OR WOES?

Lesson for September 18, 1977

Background Scripture:
Luke 6:12-26
Romans 8:18-39
Devotional Reading:
Romans 5:1-11

The Beatitudes of Jesus as found in both Matthew and Luke are known and loved throughout the world. Even believers of other religions have often heard these great words and respected them. But of the four "woes" that immediately follow the four beatitudes in Luke, people know little or nothing.

Rev. Althouse

One reason might be that there are no matching "woes" in the Matthew version, only in Luke. But the most likely reason is that people can much more easily identify with the Beatitudes than the "woes." It is human nature to be more attracted to promises of future prosperity, satisfaction, happiness, and approval than predictions of poverty, hunger, unhappiness and rejection. Of course the Beatitudes appeal to us much more!

Already consoled

Yet, when we read the Beatitudes and woes in Luke 6, the so-called Sermon on the Plain, good common sense tells us that, for the most part, the woes are much more relevant to our present conditions than the Beatitudes. For example, although there are multitudes of poor people in the world, few people who read this column have ever known real poverty. Few have ever known true hunger—not the kind we feel when we deny ourselves a second helping or a rich desert, but the kind that accompanies one to bed with an empty stomach. Few of us have ever been hated, excluded, reviled or cast out because of our adherence to the Christian faith. So, for the most part, we can hardly appreciate the promises of "the kingdom of God," of being "satisfied" of hunger, of experiencing ultimate laughter, of being vindicated in what the world judges to be humiliating discipleship. One can hardly come back from a place we've never been!

The woes of middle class

But the "woes" that immediately follow the Beatitudes seem to fit our situation in life much more readily. Most of us would hardly think of ourselves as "rich," yet in the standards of the day in which Jesus spoke these words we would. most of us, be considered quite rich in material things. Today we might admit to being "middle class", or even "affluent," but let's be quibble: Jesus would have called us rich!

"Woe to you that are full now," warns Jesus, "for you shall hunger" (6:25). How many of my readers do not have enough and more—perhaps much more—than enough food? And, at least in terms of our religious affiliation, don't "men speak well" of us, isn't our religious persuasion largely accepted? It is perhaps only in the category of mourning and weeping that we may not qualify for the "woes" Jesus pronounces and even that is questionable in light of the continuous and suject misery of those of whom Jesus spoke.

For the poor of Jesus' day the Sermon on the Plain was a ringing assurance of future blessing. But what might it be for us?

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GOSPEL CONCERT SET FOR SEPTEMBER 18th

There will be a Gospel Music Concert at the Gladstone Firehouse on September 18th beginning at 7 p.m. by Don Bryant.

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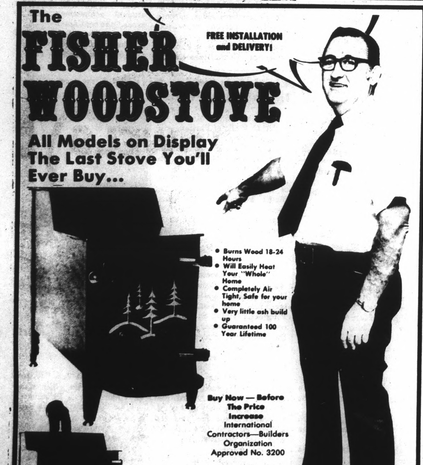

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"The South 40" by JAMES A. SMITH EXTENSION AGENT

This past week several lawns have been found to contain a high population of sod webworms. This insect is very damaging to turf. There are 60 to 70 different species of sod webworms in the U.S. They vary in size as adult larvae from ½ to ¾ inch. In the advanced stage of growth the webworm is capable of eating twice its own weight nightly.

Walking over the turf near dusk will cause the adult, an ashy brown colored moth, to fly up from the grass if they are present.

Control is most effective with a spray program. Heavy infestation will require at least two applications. Diazinon is probably the best choice.

* * *

I'm told that Norris McWhirter, co-founder of the Guiness Book of World Records, has launched an international search for the biggest, longest, heaviest, or otherwise most unusual vegetables, fruits and flowers grown by home gardeners --- $1,000 in prize money.

* * *

Whether house plants are watered with warm or cold water makes no difference., except with African Violets and Poinsettias. These should be watered with water at room temperature. Cold water will cause the leaves to spot.

* * *

There were 17 days in August with temperatures 90° or higher. Add this figure to 19 in July, 2 in June and 3 in May and we stand with 41 days with 90 degree temperatures or higher as of August 31.

* * *

While it's still warm you may like to experiment with natures way of determining air temperature. The male cricket chirps in the early evening and night. The number of chirps per minute indicates the air temperature. In 1897 Mr. Dobler presented a formula for determining the temperature from cricket chirps: Temperature = 50 + N ÷ 40 over 4; where N is the number of chirps per minute.

The male cricket makes the noise by rubbing the first pair of wings together.

* * *

It's time to treat cattle for grubs. This is a chore that must be done prior to November 1. Research indicates that there's a bit better control with less side effects if the pesticide is applied in August or September.

Young cattle are more susceptible to grub injury than adults.

* * *

Last Wednesday 62 junior bulls went on test at Red House --- 33 Angus, 21 Polled Hereford, 5 Semmental, 2 Horned Hereford and 1 Charolais.

On September 28 there will be 50+ heifers brought in for testing. These heifers are to be fed to gain a pound and a quarter per day. They will be sold with the junior bulls.

* * *

Treating small grain seed is very important; however, no one seed treatment is best for all disease problems.

Do not use treated seed for food or feed. Vitavax does a good job for controlling loose smut of wheat and barley but small grain should not be grazed for six weeks after planting.

* * *

It's time to begin thinking about small grain seeding. Last year so much small grain was lost due to cold weather that some growers may want to plant early. This can be a problem also. Planting early can cause excessive growth and be subject to winter-kill. Also, this extra growth is ideal for an aphid build-up. The problem with fall armyworms could carry over to early seeded small grain.

The word here is to stick with the recommended seeding dates.

* * *

PRECIPITATION:

Last Week	1.01
This Month	1.10
This Year	18.50

EAST CAMPBELL TO PRESENT CHRISTIAN ROCK GROUP

The East Campbell Sub-District will present "White Light", a Christian Rock Group led by Rev. Sonny Tongue, at Rustburg United Methodist Church on September 18th at 7 p.m.

The public is cordially invited to attend.

NOTICE
CHANGE OF HOURS
Appomattox
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Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, & Friday
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Thursday & Saturday
9 - 12
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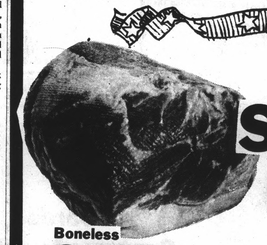

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